

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

DATE ADOPTED	Autumn 2013
LAST REVIEWED	Autumn 2023
AUTHOR/OWNER	M Joule
REVIEW CYCLE	Annual
NEXT REVIEW DATE	Autumn 2024

Winsford High Street Community Primary and Nursery School

Children in Care Policy



Definition

Children in Care are those in public care and are either –

- Subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order, living either at home or away from home. The Local Authority has parental authority which it then shares with the parents in a prescribed way.
- Accommodated with friends or relatives, foster care or residential homes – parents retain full parental responsibility.
- Remanded into care.

A private agreement is not public care - when a child lives with friends or relatives by private arrangement and these children are not designated as 'Looked After Children' or Children in Care'.

Aims

That children in care will prosper and flourish, that is to

- Stay safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Be involved
- Acquire economic well being

Rationale

- The national outcomes for children in care in terms of educational achievement and subsequent life chances are of real concern.
- It follows that children and young people who are looked after need special treatment and positive discrimination in their favour if this situation is to be improved.
- For children in care this school aims to provide positive experiences and to offer stability, safety, continuity, and individual care and attention.

ROLES AND PRIORITIES

The Headteacher and Leadership Team

The Headteacher and Leadership Team will ensure the provision/outcomes for children in care are specifically recorded in:-

- School Improvement Plan
- Planning Documents
- Appropriate School Policies and Procedures

- Specific Reports on issues such as student progress in relation to targets and Fischer Family Trust; exam results; attendance; behaviour, sanctions, exclusions; student voice.

The Headteacher and Leadership team will also:-

- Provide an annual report on the provision for, and progress of, children in care to the Governing Body.
- Ensure staff are aware that the provision to support children in care is a key school priority.
- Give the Designated Teacher for Children in Care the time and facilities to carry out his / her job description and to support them at all times in their work.
- Show a personal interest and involvement in children in care in the school.
- Challenge negative stereotypes of children in care if they exist and to insist on the highest of expectations and especially in terms of the children achieving their full potential.
- Provide Continuing Professional Development for staff on issues pertaining to children in care and to ensure that Designated Teachers attend regular training.
- Provide information to the School Improvement Partner regarding the progress of children in care on the school's roll.

Governing Body

The designated Governor is Mr Whitaker

- The Governing Body will appoint a Designated Teacher for children in care.
- The Governing Body will receive reports on children in care as outlined above.

Designated Teacher

The designated teacher is Mrs Taylor (**Deputy Head Teacher** & Inclusion Manager)

The Designated Teacher will:

- Be a champion for children in care within the school and ensure that they are receiving special provision.
- Ensure that the children in care are aware of who the Designated Teacher is, and that the member of staff's role is to support them at school.
- Ensure that teachers who need to know are aware of who are children in care, and ensure that the staff treat the information confidentially.
- Ensure that any issues regarding a child or young person being in care are treated sensitively by all staff.
- Ensure children in care receive extra support as necessary and appropriate, with the key aims of helping them achieve their academic potential and further their personal and social development.
- Ensure that all possible is being done to raise the achievement levels of Children in care
 - the students are following an appropriate curriculum,
 - the students know their targets and get feedback at least termly on how they are improving in relation to these targets and how they can improve and do better;

- the school's data tracking and comparisons with FFT show on at least a termly basis if a student is underachieving with monitored intervention strategies then being put into place;
 - the students are entered for SATs and public exams in all cases unless it is totally inappropriate;
 - the students have access to any booster support that is available in the school;
 - students on the Special Educational Needs register receive all possible support to meet their needs;
 - able students have access to the school's Gifted and Talented (More Able) provision;
 - all possible support is given at times of transition (KS1 – KS2, KS2 –KS3)
 - students are completing homework on time and of good quality and that intervention takes place if this is not the case
 - application is made for Pupil Premium Plus funding to support the education of individual students
 - the students have all possible individual assistance in developing their basic skills including reading;
 - students on the SEND register receive all possible support to meet their needs;
- To ensure that children in care receive a smooth induction into the school, with the obtaining of all relevant past history.
 - To keep comprehensive and up to date files on each student and to ensure that these are passed on should the student move school.
 - To ensure PEP and PEP Reviews occur on time and to play the lead educational role at these PEP meetings.
 - **Ensure that all PEPs are written to the child.**
 - To check with staff on a continuous basis how the students are doing and to intervene quickly at the first sign of any difficulties.
 - To monitor attendance on a weekly basis and to report any concerns to the EWO straightaway.
 - To provide daily attendance information as requested by the Virtual Team.
 - To draw up strategies for students who are not achieving or attending and then monitor the success of their implementation.
 - To liaise with carers keeping them informed but also urging them to be partners in the student's education and showing them how they can do this.
 - To ensure that students are getting their fair share of praise and rewards from the school's systems and to intervene when this seems not to be the case.
 - To be vigilant for any child protection issues and also to check carefully for any sign of a child in care being bullied.
 - To ensure that the School Nurse is aware of the child's medical history and is liaising with the Children in Care Health Support Team.
 - To liaise closely with the Virtual School Team
 - contact the Virtual School Team if access is needed to a Social Worker or a multi-agency team;
 - informing the Virtual School Team of any problems out of school that seem to have been identified;
 - seeking the support of the Virtual School Team if LA or other agency procedures do not seem to be giving necessary support to Children in care;
 - keeping the Virtual School Team informed about the general progress of children in care;
 - informing the Virtual School Team if carers do not seem to be co-operating with the school in helping the student's educational development.

NB: The Virtual School Team will keep Designated Teachers informed on all issues relating to their Children in Care on a continuous and regular basis.

Teachers

To be aware of children in care in their classes and to give them all possible support and encouragement as students who need special provision and positive discrimination whilst preserving confidentiality and showing sensitivity and understanding.

Reviewed October 2023

Chair of Governors: Mike Whitaker